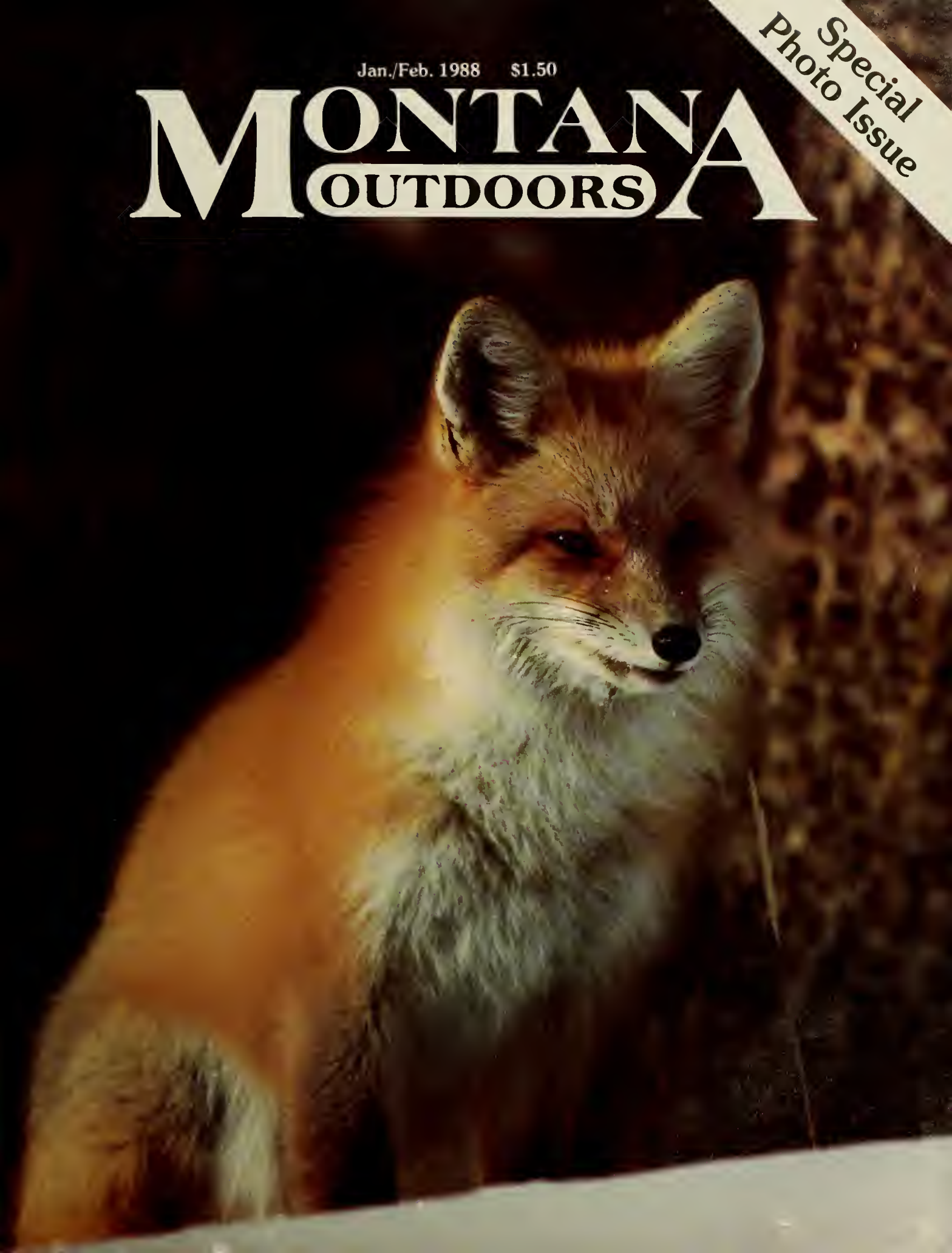
Jan./Feb. 1988 $1.50

MONTANA OUTDOORS

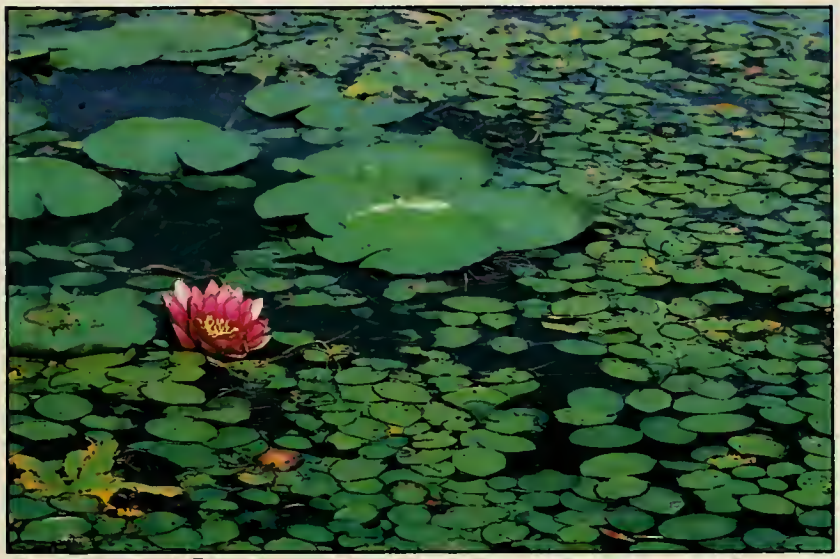
Special Photo Issue



MONTANA OUTDOORS

January/February 1988
Volume 19, Number 1

Front cover: Pete and Alice Bengeyfield
(red fox)
Inside front cover: John R. Ford
(great blue heron)
Back cover: Kathryn Meade
(whitetail fawn)



Water lily: Diane Ensign

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What are haiku, and whatever are they doing in an outdoors publication? Simply put, a haiku is a short poem, a thought in a few words. One source notes, "Haiku is the union of seeing and feeling." Another source adds, "...the whole purpose...is to express the poet's union with nature, his flash of intuition concerning the objects which his senses perceive."

A haiku contains 17 syllables, usually in three lines of five, seven, and five syllables. In most, there is some word or suggestion that indicates the time of year, thus forming a backdrop for the picture the poet is trying to form in the reader's mind. The earliest poems in haiku form date from 13th-century Japan, and the words of some of the Japanese masters—Bashō, Issa, and Buson—are still read and studied today.

The poems in this, the *Montana Outdoors* Seventh Annual Special Photo Issue, contain 17 syllables, although one has two "verses" and two depart from the five-seven-five form. They try to capture a small truth, a moment that might cause you to pause and say, "Hmm...I never thought of it quite that way before."

The haiku were written over the last year and a half—some at a desk, some on backs of napkins, some at 3 a.m. in a bedside note pad, and others during long automobile trips. All or parts of "Phantoms," "Deer Shadows," "American Eagle," "Grouse," "Bounder," "New Coot," and " 'Pie" were composed by Tom Ellerhoff; the remainder were crafted by me. Donita Sexton, *Montana Outdoors* art director, did the exquisite calligraphy of the haiku.

Thanks to Dave Books, *Montana Outdoors* editor, for his support and encouragement. And thanks to the following friends for their constructive comments: Anthony Acerrano, Norman Strung, Ken Walcheck, and Paul Zarzyski.—*Kay Morton Ellerhoff, associate editor*

February 11, 1987

perhaps the decaying leaves
fused with city grit
goaded by stiff winds
metamorphose once a year
to the shocking blush
of pink orchid blooms

Fairyslipper: Steve Wirt
Wildflowers, Glacier National Park: Gordon Dietzman

Dueling elk: Keith Szafranski

Bighorn pair: Raleigh Meade

October 20, 1987

brittle birch branches
sun's warmth enfolded
October hallelujah

Black bear: Michael H. Francis
Raccoon: John R. Ford

Fisher: Michael Paul Javorka

Shorttail weasel: Mike Logan

River otter: Gordon Dietzman

Matthew Baltzer, Duck Creek: John Baltzer

Old Secrets

old sunlight, light low
deeper, deeper autumn floods
fish teach old secrets

Long Night Moon

moon mimics sun's shape
gold reflections, twin circles
which rises, which sets?

Moon over Rough Lake, Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area: Pete and Alice Bengeyfield
Western grebe with chick: Keith Szafranski

Hoary marmot: John R. Ford

Bighorn lamb: Raleigh Meade

Phantoms

foggy autumn dawn
shrill whistle shatters silence
ghostlike wapiti

Elk trio: Carl Francis

Gathering of mallards: Conrad Rowe

New Coot

new, slick-feathered coot
security shell shattered
life creates old coots

American coot chick: Keith Szafranski
Moose: Kathryn Meade
Prairie windmill (following page): John McNeal

Prairie sunset: Kristi DuBois

Bison: Tim Manley

Sandstone formations, Garfield County: Charles B. Place III

American Eagle

extinction cheated
sun-pierced feathers, wisp of white
symbol soaring high

Bald eagle: Mark Van Donsel

Swallowtail butterfly: Steve Wirt
White-tailed ptarmigan: Don Jones

Papillon

paired, the swallowtails
spiral skyward, twirl entwined
midair courtship dance

Snow geese: John R. Ford

November 7, 1986

overhead geese sound
sonorous notes–lifelong mates
leaving cold behind

Pygmy owl: Don Jones

Sunset, Centennial Mountains: Keith Szafranski

Sharp-tailed grouse: Keith Szafranski

Beaver: Kathryn Meade

Grouse
mountain magician
woodland disappearing act
genius at escape

Yellow warbler: Alan Nelson
Drumming ruffed grouse: Conrad Rowe

January 2, 1987

shoulders caped with snow
exalted peaks rise purple
the sun their scepter

White-tailed deer: John R. Ford
Moonrise over the Missions: Pete and Alice Bengeyfield

Porcupine: Al Bishop

Whitetail jackrabbit: Michael H. Francis

'Pie

comic magpie clown
roadside carrion dancer
clean-up crew at work

Magpie: Alan Nelson

Deer Shadows

vague shadows fill dusk
noses twitch, antlers mingle
tans meld, deer shadows

Leopard frog: David L. McGee

Mule deer bucks: Dave and Becki Bennett

Bounder

brindled, bold, wily
life is not always a howl
brazen bounder-pounce!

Coyote: Conrad Rowe
Strutting toms: Conrad Rowe